

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
CAB-05 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 /082 W
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R 151450Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0598
INFO FAA BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

UNCLAS PARIS 07512

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

1. NEW POSTPONEMENT OF COURT HEARING THAT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 15 IN CONCORDE LAWSUIT AT NEW YORK WAS REPORTED IN MATTER-OF-FACT FASHION BY FRENCH RADIO AND MORNING PRESS. ONLY OFFICIAL COMMENT THUS FAR WAS FROM STATE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION CAVAILLE, WHO REMARKED TO AFP THAT COURT ACTION HAD ONLY BEEN SUSPENDED FOR A BRIEF PERIOD AND HAD NOT BEEN DROPPED. BOTH AIR FRANCE AND BRITISH AIRWAYS, HE SAID, CONTINUE TO CONTEST PORT AUTHORITY'S RIGHT TO FORBID CONCORDE LANDINGS.

2. MEDIA REACTION DEPICTS POSTPONEMENT AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF "DETENTE" IN CONCORDE AFFAIR FOLLOWING OPENING OF "TECHNICAL TALKS" BETWEEN FRENCH
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AND BRITISH ON THE ONE HAND AND PORT AUTHORITY ON THE OTHER HAND AS WELL AS RECENT SPATE OF PRO-CONCORDE PRONOUNCEMENTS FROM THE US PRIVATE SECTOR. PRO-CONCORDE STATEMENTS BY BOEING, MCDONNELL DOUGLAS, NORTHROP AND BY GEORGE MEANY WERE REPORTED OVER THE WEEKEND. HENRY FORD II WAS INTERVIEWED BY FRENCH TV AS HE LEFT ELYSEE MARCH 14 FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH

PRESIDENT GISCARD, AND HE SAID THAT CONCORDE, WHICH REPRESENTED A STEP FORWARD IN CIVIL AVIATION, SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO LAND AT NEW YORK. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT US HAD BEEN "STUPID" TO ABANDON ITS OWN SST PROJECT.

3. STATEMENTS BY BOEING ET AL OF COURSE PROVIDE PRECIOUS AMMUNITION FOR REFUTING TTC ARGUMENT THAT PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES FROM US AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY ARE BEHIND NEW YORK'S OPPOSITION TO CONCORDE. LE MONDE ADMITTED THAT THESE STATEMENTS COMPLETELY DEFLATE THAT ARGUMENT. HOWEVER, IT WAS PERHAPS INEVITABLE THAT WITH THE NEXT BREATH LE MONDE, AS WELL AS LES ECHOS IN ITS STORY, CONCLUDED BY PROCESS OF ELIMINATION THAT THE REAL PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES THEREFORE CAME FROM THE US CARRIERS--TWA AND PAN AM-- FEARFUL OF LOSING THEIR FIRST CLASS TRAFFIC TO CONCORDE. (COMMENT: WE HAVE ALREADY SUGGESTED INFORMALLY TO TWA, AND WILL DO THE SAME WITH PAN AM AND NOW NATIONAL, THAT THEY MAY FIND IT IN THEIR INTEREST TO GIVE THOUGHT TO WAYS OF REFUTING SUCH CHARGES.)
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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